

**FRAMINGHAM** - Elsa Hornfischer, one of Framingham 's strongest community arts supporters has taken her love of creative arts to a new heavenly place. She passing on May 7, 2023, after 58 years of marriage to Dave R. Hornfischer.

Among her proudest accomplishments was the creation of an oral history project at the Framingham History Center where she served as Board Secretary then Board chair.

She chaired the committee who nominated Annie Murphy as the Center's former long-time Director.

As Town Meeting discussed budget cuts, Elsa, as a Town Meeting member, penned a resolution preserving the Framingham Summer Concerts on the Common series. They continue to this day.

She served as a Town Meeting member from 2006 to 2012.

She also served a term on the Framingham Public Access TV station board where she co-hosted an arts advocacy program with Doug Freeman.

After being appointed to the Framingham Cultural Council by then Selectman Chair Charlie Sisitsky in 1997, Elsa and a few other members lead Framingham's entry into the Mass Cultural Council's State Arts program called Framingham Start.

Several grants enabled the hiring of paid staff who worked to coordinate the efforts of a wide number of Framingham arts organizations and local artists. The program was honored by state officials as a best practice for other Mass communities. She served on the Cultural Council until 2003.

Elsa's final community effort was to serve as the Board Secretary for Framingham's restructured Downtown Renaissance effort, which is now know as Downtown Framingham Inc.

In the mid 90's, with encouragement and support from their literary agent son Jim, Elsa and Dave penned two values focused books, *Mother Knew Best*, and *Father Knew Best* profiling how words of wisdom from moms and dads shaped the lives of hundreds of celebrities. Elsa commented that the books were "an opportunity for us to work together on a permanent tribute documenting our values by the stories we selected."

Elsa with her husband Dave were active members of the Callahan Senior Center where they participated in the Continuing Connections program for couples with an Alzheimer's afflicted partner and the Center's weekly chair volleyball games.

Elsa's life was a full one. She once commented that whenever it should end, one need not cry, but celebrate her joy of living. She gave a lot to others as a nurse, but felt a need to broaden the use of that training in her community. Her love of her husband, family and friends supported her primary community. But, close behind was a strong desire to illustrate and foster the value of the arts for the betterment of the broader community. A strong independent in political matters, she rebelled against national partisan politics. She believed and lived by a view that all meaningful politics were local.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made in Elsa's honor to the Friends of the Callahan Senior Center at 365 Union Ave Framingham 01702 for use in support of its Continuing Connections program. A memorial service celebrating Elsa's life will be held at the Cushing Chapel on Friday May 26 a noon.



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